



## AGRICULTURAL.

## Management of Horses.

As the health of the horse is the highest object to be gained, I will begin by a few hints on that subject. The most effectual way of attaining this object is to keep the horse in a good, comfortable, well-ventilated stable, work him fairly, feed him well, and groom him well. The stable ought to be high-pitched to give it proper ventilation, without the necessity of currents of cold air. In the case of a badly ventilated stable, the air is re-breathed, and, as in the inhalation of air and oxygen is exhausted to a large extent, and carbonic acid gas takes its place, it quickly shows its effect on the inmates of the stable. The air that has been breathed, being warm, ascends, and consequently loftiness is essential to carry it off. The stable should, however, be constructed so as to be regulated as in warmth according to the time of year and climate.

The stable should be paved with stones or very hard brick, on a slight decline to carry off the urine, and should if possible, be washed out every day. Some litter should always be kept under a horse for him to stand on, as the splashing of the urine often produces small sores on the legs. Give plenty of clean straw to lie on at night, and never neglect to keep all manure out of the stall, for in dirt and bad smells a horse can never thrive. Groom a horse well by brushes, cloths, and plenty of hard rubbing, and never use the currycomb for anything else but to clean the brushes, for if used on the horse, the little teeth are apt to scratch and irritate the skin. Keep warm blankets on in winter and a thin cover in summer, for a fine glossy coat is produced by warm clothing and hard rubbing. See that his feet are properly washed and rubbed dry around the fetlocks, for many a horse has grease or scratches from being put into a stable with wet or muddy feet, though generally a bad state of the blood produces it. Have the shoes to fit well, too large shoes are apt to twist a horse's leg, and too small ones produce corns and contracted heels. The inside of the front part of the hind shoe should be rounded or hammered flat, in order to prevent over reaching.

Feed well; by which is meant not giving a superabundance of food, which is as bad as not giving enough, but give him a fair amount—say 12 pounds of good hay and 1½ gallons of grain. This is sufficient for most horses; though in some instances more is required. Feed regularly, and above all things, give good, sound food. Grain is best when bruised or ground up, as it digests better, and a horse is not so apt to bolt it. Give water from a river or pond, but if this cannot be had, draw the well water some hours before giving it, as cold hard water is likely to produce gripes and cramp.

Generally with these precautions a horse is kept in good health and order, though it may sometimes be necessary to give a little physic; but depend upon it, the less given the better, for many a good horse is made ill and ruined by the dosing of inexperienced hands.—*Car. Country Gentleman.*

## A Little Work Advised.

The *Western Rural* sensibly says that after the long summer of hard work by the farmer, necessary to provide himself and family with food and raiment, he takes his season of comparative rest. If a little of this spare time were properly employed in adorning home and its surroundings, as much more pleasure, perhaps, might be derived from an æsthetic view of the subject, as could be given by the same amount of work bestowed in any other way. The bread and meat which supply the physical wants of man are not all the things we should live for. The enjoyment of even these things, can only come through the refining influences which tend to elevate our higher natures. We are creatures of circumstances; the soul becoming the reflex of what surrounds us. In the light of these facts will it pay to neglect the refining and soul-inspiring influences, and endure the unsightly and disordered farm house and surroundings which can be nothing less than a perpetual annoyance to a refined taste?

The farmer who neglects these things and spends his time in the village saloon or upon the street corner, hunting pleasure, wastes that which belongs not only to his family but to his neighbors, and time which, if properly applied, would bring mutual results in happiness, a well-spring of joy for a lifetime, to all concerned. We have

known farmers and their wives to do work enough to make things delightful all about them, but for want of system and proper care all was chaos. The walks were incomplete, the trees broken and dead, because set in a haphazard way, and left to shift for themselves without mulching; the fences dilapidated and down, with the lawn and flowers laid waste by the feet of the animal whose proclivities are to "root, hog or die;" the buildings brown and uninviting from the lack of paint. The system of neglect extended into the house as well; the walls bare, neglected and without ornament.

This is all wrong. Some time should be employed in providing for the happiness and pleasures of home. In fact, the pleasant associations are the principal things which constitute a home. Bright faces and light hearts form the silken cords which unite families together, and prevent many a wayward youth from running riot in the ways of sin. The best way to prevent such evil results is to "make home happy." Flowers are cheap, and gladly send out their rich fragrance beneath the most lowly roof. Paint of many colors is abundant, and like charity, "hides a multitude of sins." Time is plenty, when used aright, and if some farmers would use a little as indicated above, and protect and preserve the work done, it would aid largely in lengthening out their days.

## Fall Plowing.

Fall plowing is a popular method for treating stubble fields, yet we have known old farmers to object to it, arguing that so much exposure of the soil to the sun and drying winds causes a part of the fertility to escape therefrom. The saturated and dry condition of the soil being alternated from too much exposure to the heat of the sun and drying winds hastens the decomposition of the organic matter, or manures in the soil, and converts the vegetable molds into gases, the only form of nourishment fit for plant food, so rapidly and in such abundance that the soil is unable to contain it all. This surplus fertility passes in the atmosphere to remain until carried down by rains to enrich other farms.

However true this argument may be, there are other claims in favor of fall plowing sufficiently valid to more than overbalance all the objections to it, if the work be properly done. There is much to be gained by early plowing, before the weed seeds have time to mature their germs of perpetual annoyance to the vigilant farmer. In this way both the perennial and annual varieties may be effectually eradicated. Fall plowing destroys the hiding places of noxious insects, which feed upon the growing crops, and puts the rubbish in shape to be converted into manure, which upon spring plowing remains in a raw state to "fire" the crops, and causes no little damage during very dry seasons.

The ground also becomes thoroughly disintegrated and settled by the freezing process of winter, which puts it in a better condition to receive and promote the growth of spring crops than freshly plowed land. It especially admits of early sowing of small grain, without which a good yield is seldom produced. And to have the important work of plowing already done when the rush of work comes in a backward spring is no small desideratum. The dryer and lumpier the ground is when plowed the less liable it is to become run together and "baked" from heavy rains in the fall and winter. Speaking of this puts us in mind to call attention to the importance of laying off the lands for plowing in such a manner that the surface drainage will be most perfect, so that the fields will be relieved as far as possible of the surface water. Only he who observes all these rules can claim the title of "model farmer."

## Fall Pigs.

Pigs that come in the fall months, especially the latter ones, are unprofitable stock. In the first place, they are in the way of the fattening hogs, and from their inability to "stand from under" are trampled under foot, have every disadvantage to contend against, and wear a dwarfish appearance from which they never recover. Besides, they generally weigh less than any hogs in the fattening pen. Take early spring pigs, and in addition to their regular allowance, give them the same quantity as that consumed by pigs coming four or five months earlier, and they will make more and better pork, and not be chargeable with one-fourth the trouble of their seniors. Perhaps the most profitable use that could be made of them would be as roasters, or to feed them high through the winter and sell them to the butcher in the spring when pork is scarce. But for the most profit, always take spring pigs, feed them plenty of milk, meal and clover through the summer time, and if they are a good breed they can be made to weigh at eight months old,

or at killing time, from two hundred to two hundred and fifty pounds, and sometimes more, which is as much as the generality of hogs from twelve to fifteen months old will weigh.

When well fed, spring pigs will gain from one to two and a half pounds a day, and be found much the cheapest pork the farmer can raise. To make them attain their greatest weight, however, at eight months old, they not only require the best of varied food, with plenty of skimmed milk to begin with, but must also be one of the best breeds—no "land-pike" need be so fed with the expectation of weighing down any such figures. Nor should the mother sow be any thing but thrifty and well kept through the year. The best breeds will deteriorate by neglect or short feeding, and the pigs of a sow that has been half fed during gestation will be puny and slow growing, however plenty the subsequent feed may be.

## Will Keeping Sheep Pay?

A writer in the *National Live Stock Journal* gives his idea on this subject.

Sheep pay better than any other stock; no matter what the kind is. I have been feeding some three hundred head of cattle, and I am satisfied that, even with the most favorable condition for selling, when the time comes, I shall make a great deal more money, dollar for dollar on the money invested in sheep than I shall make on the capital invested in cattle. I have about six hundred sheep, running without any particular attention or care, and have sold \$1,400 worth of wool of this year's clip, and have 250 lambs besides. I do not think it possible to have done so well on an equal amount of capital invested in cattle. One great advantage sheep have over other stock is, they never die of contagious diseases which they contract. They get the scab or foot-rot or something else, and if unchecked it gets them in bad condition, and would ultimately, perhaps, kill them. But the very worst contagious diseases to which sheep are subject, give the owner ample time to treat the affected animals, and the diseases are generally of a character which yields readily to treatment. But a man may have hogs, and feed them hundreds of bushels of corn daily, and about the time the bottoms of his cribs are neared, and he thinks of selling, some disease break out among them—no one knows what it is or what to do for it—one animal after another following in rapid succession is affected, and the greater portion die. I have known farmers to be well-nigh ruined by the appearance of a contagious disease of this character. Sheep are happily exempt from such rapid and fearful mortality. Besides, when a sheep dies—and they will die sometimes—his pelt is sufficient to pay for his death. It makes no difference when he dies, or what kills him, the sheep never dies in debt.

**How to Estimate the Profit of a Farm.**  
The farmer lives in his own house. The use of the house, which he does not pay for, is as much a part of his income as the money which the salaried man pays rent of his, and should be counted cash in the estimate of the profits of the farm. All things produced on the farm and consumed on the farmers table, including the vegetables from the garden, the eggs and milk used in cooking, are as much a part of his income as the money paid for such things out of his salary is of the salaried man. If a farmer gives his wife and children a pleasant ride to town, using his own horses and wagon, the value of their use is a part of his income from his farm; as truly as the money the other man pays out of his salary for carriage hire is of his. The correct rule for estimating the income from a farm is substantially this: Give credit for everything produced, used, or expended in any way whatever, no matter how small in value, as well as for cash received for products sold, and for increase in the value of farm property, and charge against the farm interest on capital invested, and for all expenditures. The farmer that will do this from year to year will not so much feel like complaining of the unprofitableness of farming as compared with other pursuits. The fact is that not one in a hundred farmers take into consideration the luxury and comforts of fresh eggs, butter, milk, fruits, etc., that they would have to pay high prices for if they lived in towns, or do without them.

**How to Keep Meat Fresh a Long Time.**  
There is no good reason why farmers and their families should eat so much salt pork, leaving all the fresh meat to the inhabitants of cities and villages, when the following method will keep meat fresh for months, in the warmest weather. As soon as the animal heat is out of the meat, slice it up ready for cooking. Prepare a large jar by scalding well with hot salt water. Mix salt

and pulverized saltpeter in the proportion of one tablespoonful of saltpeter to one teaspoonful of salt. Cover the bottom of the jar with a sprinkle of salt and pepper. Put down a layer of meat, sprinkle with salt and pepper the same as if just going to the table, and continue in this manner until the jar is full. Fold a cloth or towel, and wet it in strong salt water, in which a little of the saltpeter is dissolved. Press the cloth closely over the meat and set in a cool place. Be sure and press the cloth on tightly as each layer is removed, and your meat will keep for months. It is a good plan to let the meat lie over night after it is sliced before packing. Then drain off all the blood that oozes from it. It will be necessary to change the cloth occasionally, or take it off and wash it—first in cold water—then scald in salt water as at first. In this way farmers can have fresh meat the whole year round.

## How to Drive Sheep.

Like many other persons, I handled sheep a long time before acquiring the art of driving them to the best advantage, when the sheep are turned upon the road without any help to assist me. The first day I drove eight to ten miles, and got them in good pasture at night. The next morning after getting under way, I found the sheep were very hard to drive; they wanted to lie down under every shade, and I labored hard all day, and only made seven or eight miles on the journey: this was the experience for three or four days. I began at last to reflect as to the cause of the sheep driving so badly, and it occurred to me the reason was they had filled themselves during the night, and wanted to lie down and chew their cud, instead of travelling on a full stomach. I resolved to change my tactics at the next stopping place. Accordingly when night came, instead of turning them into a pasture field as heretofore, I put them into a nice clean barnyard, and let them rest all night instead of eating. The result was that the next morning when I turned them on the road I had to get before them to restrain them I found it necessary to use a long pole to keep them back, so marvelous was the change, and so impetuous was their anxiety to push ahead. The reason for this change was simply owing to the fact that the sheep had a good night's rest, and were fresh and hungry.—*Car. American Farmer.*

**"Contraction" in Farm Wages.**  
From tables prepared by the department of Agriculture, it appears that the average price of farm labor with board in the United States is \$12 40 per month, being a decline of nearly twenty per cent. since 1869. Part of this difference, however, is found in the disproportion in numbers of laborers of the higher and lower classes in efficiency and money value. The calculations are based on the numbers given respectively in the census of 1860 and 1870, and in the latter the slaves of the former period, who had no place in that enumeration, are included as farm laborers, increasing the proportion of low-priced labor and reducing the average. The average price of labor with board in the Southern States is \$10 17; in the Western, \$13 66; in the Middle, \$16 81; in the Eastern, \$18 58; on the Pacific Coast, \$28 12; and in the Territories, \$18 25.

**Saving Wheat Straw.**  
Some may consider this a small matter, but when we consider the various uses, valuable uses, to which wheat straw may be put, it will not appear so insignificant. It is good for provender during winter, it will do finely for mulching, and can be used in various ways known to practical and experienced farmers. Properly put up, it will furnish protection for cattle and sheep during the severe winter weather, and when nothing else can be done with it there is nothing better for manuring and enriching land.—*Memphis Appeal.*

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

**Valuable Recipes.**  
**SNOW PUDDING.**—Into one quart of sweet milk put one pint of bread crumbs, butter the size of an egg, the well beaten yolks of five eggs; sweeten and flavor as for custard; mix the whole well together. While the above is baking, beat the whites of five eggs to a stiff froth, add a half teaspoon sifted sugar, pour it over the hot pudding when cooked, return to the oven until a delicate brown. The above is excellent without addition, but some prefer a layer of jelly or canned peaches on the pudding before frosting.

**ICEING THAT WILL NOT BREAK.**—Take one pound of pulverized white sugar, the whites of three eggs beaten until you can turn the dish upside down; one teaspoonful of flour or corn starch added to it; flavor with lemon; flour the top of the cake as soon as taken from the oven; put on the icing with a large bladed steel knife dipped in warm water, and then smooth the icing with it.

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**SCALLOPED TOMATOES.**—Peel half a dozen large tomatoes, scalding them if necessary; to the pulp add two tablespoonfuls of crumbled bread; pepper and salt to the taste; add an ounce of butter; put the whole into buttered scallop-tins and bake for half an hour. Some like the addition of a little sugar.

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